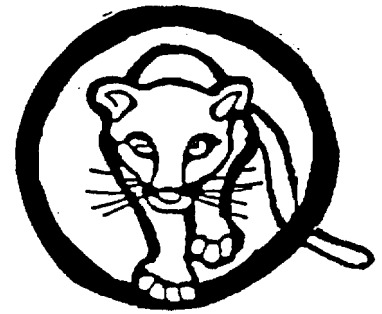




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CONTROL CENTER

November 4, 1999

Donna Shalala, Secretary
US Dept. of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave. SW
Washington DC 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala:

Gray Panthers of Northern California wishes to express it's great concern about possible weakening of labeling requirements for irradiated food. We understand this is being considered by the Food & Drug Administration. Gray Panthers have taken a strong position that citizens have the right to know what food is treated with radiation.

We have a real concern about the chemical changes which take place with food products treated to radioactive isotopes. These changes, whether cosmetic or nutritional, warrant disclosure placed in a clear and prominent place on each and every package of food. That food which is not packaged should have signage in prominent view for the public where it is sold to so indicate the irradiation. Labels should be truthful and understandable.

We believe that you will defend our right to know through action in this important decision-making process as you have before on so many issues. Thank you for standing by the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joan B. Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joan" being more prominent.

Joan B. Lee
Gray Panthers of Northern California, Legislative Liaison

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